

La Esperanza

George takes off on a romantic quest to find the only person who can fill the painful gaps in his memory. But he's surrounded in a group of his dream friends, and left there full of unanswered questions. While George struggles to make sense of his friends' laughing and crying, Albert makes out the way to love for more than any other. How can anyone love for half a life? Will George ever see his dream companion? Will he put together the love fragments of his past, or will he spend the happy days away?

Lost love and endless hopes for the future fill the pages of *La Esperanza*. Sweet and generous George carries the unspoken word for anyone, but what price does he pay to remain so pure? He's the owner of a mansion, and a truly natural musician, but his pain runs deeper than his gentle smile allows. Will his future be defined by the soaring melodies he brings to life...or is he doomed to live in the deepest shadows of his past?

SHOEN / COMICS / ROMANCE
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FOR TEENS 13+

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Where girls gather...

Boys play...

NEWS

FORUMS

some manga

Blog

merchandise



like

La Esperança



7

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Tori



Manga



La Esperança

7

Shogakukan







We love you!!
Thank you!!

La Esperanza

エスペランサ

7

かわい手草

Chigusa Kawai



ロザリオ
ROSARIO

La Esperança

7

ROSE/RJO

3

Promenade

323

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"WERE NOT
ACTING
TO DO
WITH ANY
OF THIS?"

HIS
ROBURY...

"WERE
IT AND
SOMETHING
TO DO WITH
THAT?"



"DONT
ROBURY?"

"IS THAT
REALLY
WHAT YOU
THINK?"

HE'LL...

"DID YOU
NOTICE IF
THE SAME
DRIVEN AS
DRIVEN?"

NOT
INVOLVED...

"IT DOES
TOO
INVOLVE
ME..."



"WERE! -
... I THINK
IT WAS..."

"WAS HE
LOOKING
AT A MAP
OF THAT
TOWN?"

"WERE...?"



"DONT
JES' ME
OK"

"WAS
WOULD HE BE
INVOLVED
IN THAT
PARTICULAR
TOWN?"



"DONT
TO THINK
OF IT"

"BEFORE THAT
I REMEMBER
GEORGE'S FATHER
SUSPECTED SOMETHING
AFTER LOOKING
AT HIS ROBURY"

IT'S NOT
POSSIBLE...

"LILIN
WOULDN'T
DO THAT."

NOT

...IMPOSSIBLE...P

POSSIB-

"ONCE
I KNOW
EVERYTHING..."

EVEN
THOUGH...

THING."

BA-BUMP

"I'VE
ALREADY
SAID SO."

IT-

BA-BUMP





A GIRL
WITH
GOLDEN
BLONDE
HAIR

SHE LOOKED
EXACTLY LIKE
GEORGIE.



DID YOU
FIND

ABASE...?

MAY I...
ASK YOU
ONE
THING?

HIS
ROSARY...

IS IT
REALLY
HIS...?



BUT HE
DOESN'T
KNOW...

IT'S TRUE...
THERE IS
ANOTHER
LIKE IT
SOMEWHERE.

HE ASKED
ME ABOUT
IT TOO

THE
ROSARY...



ONCE...

I KNEW
SOMEONE
LIKE THAT
HAD THE
VERY SAME
THING.

- YES.

THEIR
AGES ARE
DIFFERENT
BUT...

SHE TWO...
CLOSELY
RESEMBLE
EACH
OTHER.

WHY DO
YOU
ASK...?







SOMEONE.

WHO UNDERSTANDS THE PAIN AND EMOTION OF OTHERS -

SAVED HIM TO ME.

WHO HE IS

YOU'RE THE REASON HE IS THE PERSON HE IS TODAY...

SOMEONE KIND AND GENTLE

YOU TWO ARE EXACTLY ALIKE



ALWAYS.

ON ANY HAND.

HET DRIVING HIM

ALWAYS HIM

HE WAS ABLE TO SAVE ME...

BECAUSE HE'S WHO HE IS

I THINK...

HE SAVED ME

BUT THEN -

BEFORE I KNOW IT -

THAT SO HAPPY...

HE HAD FOUND HIS WAY -

TO HAVE MET YOU...

BECAUSE YOU...

SAVED MY NIGHT...



AND...

MAYBE HE'S
GONE TO
CONFIRM ALL
OF THAT. ♪

THAT THERE'S
SOME KIND OF
CONNECTION.

WHAT IF
HE KNOW
ABOUT
THEM ALL?



IF HE'S
WITH
SOMEONE
I KNOW,
SHE'S
WASHE HE
MAY HAVE
GONE...

VERON...

HOW?

BUT...



-HEY.

HE WAS
CONCERNED
ABOUT HIS
SCHOOL,
RIGHT. ♪

WHERE
COULD
HE HAVE
GONE. ♪



WHAT IF HE
FIGURED
IT OUT...?



...AND
HIMSELF.

HIS
ROBBER...

ABOUT
THAT GIRL
ROBERT
KNOWS...











OVER
THREE —
PLATFORM
NUMBER 3!

EVEN IF —

IT'S
REVEALED —

THAT
THREE
AND CRASH
TWO
BETWEEN
THEM...

AT THE
MOMENT —

"BOBBY..."



...NOW HE'S
ABLE TO
SPEAK LIKE
BART ON
HIS OWN
EH...?

SO...

THERE'S
ONE LEAVING
AT 9:50!

HA!

WHAT A
WAY TO
TALK...

DID YOU
CALL?

MY DAD
SAID HE'LL
BE AT
GEORGINA'S
HOUSE
SOON.
HE'S MISS
SAPHIRE'S
DOCTOR, SO I'M
SURE HE'LL
BE OF
SOME USE

YEAH, BUT
ABOUT
WHAT?







HE WAS ALWAYS TRYING TO BE SOMEONE WHO NEVER HURT ANOTHER HUMAN BEING

THAT'S WHY...

HE WAS DESPERATE NEVER TO BECOME LIKE HIS FATHER

IT WAS HARDER TO KNOW



I'M BLISS IT'S THANKS TO YOU...

BUT...

HE'S CHANGED A LOT

HE'S FINALLY STARTED TO SHOW HIS TRUE FACE... HIS TRUE EMOTIONS

MUCH AS IT HURTS TO SAY IT

TELL ME MORE



GEORGE

NOW THAT'S JUST CREEPY



I THINK HE WAS SOMETHING LIKE A LIQUOR, GIVING OUT SOMETHING AT HIGH INTEREST

SO, PAIR RINGS GEORGE'S NEW LITTLE...

HE'S HAD TO SEE PEOPLE SUFFERING BECAUSE THEY COULDN'T PAY BACK THE MONEY

YOU KNOW...

...GEORGE NEVER LIKED HIS FATHER MUCH







FROM
YOUR
FATHER'S
COMPANY



HOW
WAS IT?

BECAUSE...



I'M
SORRY



DO YOU
HATE
JACK...
YOUR
FATHER?



WE AND
I WERE
FRIENDS
SINCE
CHILDHOOD,
AND UNTIL THE
TIME WE
MOVED AWAY
DURING HIGH
SCHOOL,
WE WERE
ALWAYS
TOGETHER

THE LAST
LETTER I GOT
FROM HIM
WAS ONE
TELLING ME SHE
HAD GOTTEN
MARRIED
TO A MUSICIAN
WITH A
PROMISING
FUTURE

SOMETIME
LATER, I
HEARD THAT
SHE HAD
GIVEN BIRTH
TO A BABY
GIRL...

WE KEPT
IN TOUCH
FOR A WHILE
AFTER WE
PARTED,
BUT...

AS TIME
WENT ON, OUR
COMMUNICATION
DIMINISHED...



YES

GRACE...?



SOON AFTER,
MY MOTHER
ALSO FINISHED
HISSE

I ALONE WAS
LEFT TO DEAL
WITH THE DEBT
COLLECTORS.

WITH THE
ADDITION
HIS CARE --
"MOTHER'S
HOUSE" --
WAS SEIZED

MY FATHER
HARRIED AWAY
LEAVING
MANY DEBTS
BEHIND







GOD WILL
NOT
FORGIVE
SUCH AN
ACT

ALICE
MURDER

SHE
WAS
SEEKING AN
ABORTION

THE
CHILD OF
A MAN
LIKE
THAT?

HOW
COULD IT
EVER BE
HAPPY

I COULDN'T
EVEN
FORGET
GRACE...

I NEVER
WANTED
IT IN
THE FIRST
PLACE!

I DON'T
WANT IT!

I DON'T
WANT IT!

I DON'T
WANT IT!

I DON'T
WANT IT!



WON'T
KEEP
SLEEPING?

WEEP IT
WITH YOU
AGAIN...

THAT'S
THIS...

SHE GAVE
GRACE -

THE SAME
SORROW AS
HERSELF...

...LEAVING
THE GIRL TO
BELIEVE THEY
WOULD MEET
AGAIN
SOMEONE

BUT YOU
SEE -

MARIA WAS
PREGNANT

I'M SURE
GOD WILL
FORGIVE ME
WATCHING
OVER YOU...

THANK YOU





DON'T DO IT

IT'S NO
BUSINESS
OF THE
CHILD-TO-BE

IT
JUST SO
HAPPENED
THAT TODAY
WAS
SUPPOSED
TO STOP
BY THAT DAY

AND
RELEASING THE
CONVICTION,
HE TURNED
INSIDE

HE CONVINCED
WASH TO
RECONSIDER
SINCE THAT
HE WAS
WILLING TO
HELP IN
RUNNING
FOR HER
FUTURE

JUST SEE
TO IT
THAT YOU
WASH IT
TO BE
WORTHY



BUT
SHE'S
NOT...

MY
FATHER
SAID THAT?



I DON'T
WANT
YOUR
CHILD!

IT'S HARD
TO ADVISE
YOURSELF
FALL ON
PURPOSE,
BUT IT IS

HAVE
ARE YOU
SURE?

SHALL I TRY
FALLING
DOWN THE
STAIRS?

OR
BURNING
INTO THE
FIRE?

HAVE

STOP
MOM!

I DON'T
EVEN
HAVE THE
MONEY
TO BURN IT

STOP !

A CHILD
LIKE
THIS -

STOP
MOM!



"THERE ARE
THOSE IN THE
COMPANY WHO
USE UNLAWFUL
METHODS TO
RELIANTLY OBTAIN
INFORMATION."

"EVEN ALL
IT IS BY
FOLLOWING
BUSINESS
POLICY,
POSS?"

"IT WAS
A BIG
COMPANY."



"- TO
YOU
TOO."

"HE CAN'T
HAVE BEEN
A GOOD
PERSON."

"HE
RECUITLY
MERRY
UPON SO
MANY
PEOPLE --"

"WHAT
ABOUT
YOU?"

"WAS HE
CRUEL TO
YOU...?"



"THAT'S
NOT
AT THE
VERY
LEAST."

"IT ONLY BRINGS
UNHAPPINESS
TO PEOPLE."

"I WOULD LIKE
YOU TO RAISE
YOUR CHILD TO
BE SOMEONE
WHO CAN BRING
HAPPINESS TO
OTHERS."



"THAT'S --"

"WWW..."



"WHY IS
AFTERNOON
CRYING...?"

"WHY IS THIS
PERSON
CRYING...?"

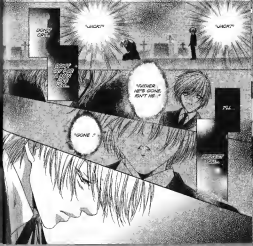
"WHY
ARE YOU
ASKING
THEM
ABOUT...?"

"I NEVER
WANT TO BE
LIKE YOU
ANYMORE..."

"IT'S
BECAUSE
OF YOU
I CAN'T
STOP."









IT'S PROBABLY
JUST TOO MUCH FOR
HIM TO TAKE IN AT
ONCE

HE
WANTS TO BE
IN
SHOCK

BEFORE,
HE WAS THE
ONE WHO
WANTED TO
KNOW
EVERYTHING

IS HE
ONLY...?



SHARE?

SHARE
WHAT?

AT LEAST
I FOUND
SOMEONE
TO SHARE

BUT
THANKS
TO ALL
THIS...



A DELICATE
ANSEL...

BUT A
KIND
STRONG
ANSEL...

THE
GUEST...

I
SUSPECT



VERY
HOT...

SITTING
HERE
NOW...



THANK
YOU VERY
MUCH

BUT...

I WONDER
IF IT WAS
ALL WORTH
FOR HIM
TO KNOW

IT'S SO
LATE
PLEASE
GO TO THE
BED



YOU SHOULD GET SOME SLEEP.



- I -

I WONDER WHY I'M HERE...



ARE YOU REGRETTING THIS?



JUST LIKE SHE DID -

SURELY HE WILL GIVE ME -

WITH THE S-HE REGRET -

WONDERING WHY I'M HERE...







LET'S GO
-WOOCAVE-

THE
MOUTH
OF
THE
GATE



YOU'RE...

...NOT
GRACE

DEARIE ANGEL...



GRACE...

...IS MY
BIG SISTER.



~ YESH

I KNOW...



THAT'S
RIGHT...

IF GRACE
HAD BEEN
THE ONLY
ONE...

BORN
TO THIS
WORLD...

JUST
HER...



AND I...

I
WOULD

THAT...

WOULD
SOMEBODY
HAVE BEEN
BEST...



...MIGHT
HERE...

THE
MOUTH...

LET'S GO
TO IT...

GRACE...

THE
GATE
IS
EVERYONE
ELSE



AFTER ALL, THAT'S THE ONLY WAY WE HAVE OF CONTACTING HIM.

ANYWAY! I'M GONNA GO LOOK AT THAT MAP.
KEEP CALLING THAT ALAN GUY!



WHERE ARE YOU?!



WHERE...

WHERE ARE YOU RIGHT NOW...?!

ANSWER...

ANSWER IT...

ALAN - ?



NO -

HIS TURNED IT OFF.

IT'S NO GOOD.

CAN YOU GET HIM ON THE PHONE?



AND HIS CALLER...

I WONDER IF HE'S OKAY?

IT'S ALREADY LATE.

I HOPE HE'S AT LEAST GOTTEN TO THAT "MADAM HOURS" SAFELY...

THERE ARE NO MORE TRAINS RUNNING BACK.



WANT
THE

MESSAGE
ALREADY
ONE -

HEY

YOU HAVE
15 NEW
MESSAGES



I'M SORRY
TO TROUBLE
YOU, BUT
WOULD YOU
PLEASE CALL
ME BACK?

I'M TOLD
THAT
YOU'RE
WITH MY
SON.

OH...

THIS IS
GEORGE'S
MOTHER -



UM, IF HE'S
WITH YOU,
PLEASE, IF I
COULD JUST
HEAR ONE
WORD FROM
HIM -

IS IT
SHOWING
THERE?"
THE GOLF
IS IT...

HOW?

MESSAGE
ALREADY
TWO -

UM, I'M
SO SORRY
TO KEEP
CALLING
LIKE THIS,
BUT...

THIS IS
GEORGE'S
MOTHER

PLEASE,
MY SON
DON'T
HIDE A
PHONE
AND -

IF YOU
COULD
JUST
LET ME
KNOW IF
GEORGE
IS -

IF YOU'RE
WITH HIM,
PLEASE
LET ME
KNOW



MESSAGE...



NO MORE
MESSAGES





YOU'RE RIGHT,?



YOU ARE
A SUBSTITUTE?



THE PERSON WHO LEFT THE AMBULANCE...

WHAT'S THIS...?



IT'S ME



WHERE IS HE?

IS HE WITH MOTHER?

YOU COULD SAY THAT...

WH...?



YOU ARE...?

...SUBSTITUTE...



I'M SORRY



NE NOME

DISCO

WH SH

I'M SORRY





... KNOWS
THAT HE'S
NOT THE
ONE
REFLECTED
IN YOUR
EYES

HE
KNOWS

WHAT DO
YOU ...



YOUR FACE

THE ...

LAST ...

HE
REALIZED

YOU ARE
NOT ...

YOUR
ME

IS JUST A
SUBSTITUTE
FOR GRACE



HE'S IN LOVE
WITH YOU



BUT
HE'S THE
ONE WHO
WANTED TO
FIND OUT
YOU KNOW?

PUT HIM
ON!

I KNOW
HE'S
THERE ...
PUT
HIM ON!

PUT HIM
ON!

HE WAS
REALLY
UPSET

I CAN'T
SAY I
BLAME
HIM



HE'S GONE



WELL ...

Oh ...

IT'S YOUR
A SET

FOR
INVADING
MINE.

FOR
GUESSING
ANY TO
SUFFER...

IT'S
PUNISH-
MENT

WATCHING ANY
SUFFER...

DOES IT
HURT
YOU, ?

IT'S
PUNISHMENT

YOUR...

AND...

N. G...

"BUT --
YOU WERE...
IN THE
AUDIENCE, ?

"WHY DID
YOU COME
HERE, ?"

"IF I WERE
HERE, WOULD
YOU ASK ME
THE SAME
QUESTION, ?"

"IT DOES
TOO
HURT ME..."

IN THIS
SHOW -!

YOU'VE
GOT TO
BE
KIDDING
ME!

...ARRIVE

WALL...

HEAT

THIS...

2-

SOME-UP
WHEN-UP

WHAT?

WHAT
HAPPENED?!

YOU'RE
KIDDING

AT THIS
MOMENT



ALL I'M
DOING...

...I'M CAUSING
EVERYBODY
ALL KINDS OF
TROUBLE...

WHY?

...WHY...

WHY DID
THINGS
TURN OUT
THIS WAY...

I WASN'T
ABLE TO
FLY IN THE
FLOOD,
EITHER...

FREEZE!
I LET HIM
DOWN...

THINK
ABOUT
HOW
I'VE
BEEN A
COMB-
BUSTION

THE PARTY.
I WONDER
WHAT
HAPPENED
AFTER
WARDS...

YOU WERE
ALREADY
BEING
WORRIED,
TOO.

...SINCE I
RAN OFF
SO
SUDDENLY...

MOTHER...

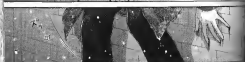
I
WONDER
IF SHE'S
WORRIED
ABOUT
ME...

SSSSSS

WHAT AM I
DOING, I?



"YOU'RE A
SUBSTITUTE..."



I WISH
I'D NEVER
MET YOU.

THEN

I COULD
HAVE TOLD
HOW I FELL
HOW I LOVED
TO BE

AND
YOU -

WOULD
NEVER
HAVE BEEN
HURT...

MAYBE...

I JUST
SHOULDN'T
EXIST...

"YOU'RE
RIGHT..."





THIS
ROSARY -



BECAUSE
OF MY
EXISTENCE -

I'M
SORRY...

MANY
PEOPLE HAVE
SUFFERED...

I'M...

SORRY...

I WAS
ABUSED -

FORGOTTEN
FEELINGS...

THAT IS
WHY

THERE'S

NO NEED
FOR ME
ANYMORE -

OR...









AREN'T YOU
THE ONE WHO
BROUGHT HIM
HERE?

WHERE
IS HE?

WHAT DID
YOU MEAN
"HE'S
GONE?"

WHY...

HAVE ME
OUT...

HE...

HE SAID
TO ME...

THAT
HE...

HAD BEEN A
SUBSTITUTE...

SO I...

ALAN...

OUT...

WH...?

...ARE
YOU...
HERE...?

TO

WHUMP

you...!





GRACE
WOULD NEVER
DO SOMETHING
AS STUPID
AS THIS.

SHE
HAD MUCH
MORE LEVEL-
HEADED -

AND
DELIBERATE.

AND
ALWAYS

IN FRONT
OF ME

IT'S
BECAUSE HE'S
OBSESSED!

THAT'S THE
ANSWER

HEEN
SHOWN
OUT OF
THE
CORNER
OF MY
EYE

ALL
THIS -



I TURNED
HIM INTO
GRACE

THAT'S
WHY
IN MY
MIND...

BUT -

HE'S
NOT
GRACE

NOR
SHOULD HE
BECOME
GRACE.

THAT'S
WHY...

"YOU ARE A
SUBSTITUTE..."

I'M THE
SAME AS
YOU!

I CAUSED
HIM TO
SUFFER
TOO...!

OF COURSE
HE'S NOT A
SUBSTITUTE!



THAT'S
WHY HE'S
ALWAYS
ON MY
MIND!

ROBERT

LOOK!

OVER
THERE!

WHOOSH



YET IT
AIDS THE
STRENGTH...

TO FORCE
THROUGH TO
THE TOWN...

IT'S SO
BREVESAL...

USE IT
IT MIGHT
TAKE
AND
INTO THE
LIGHT...

YOU GET
IT, DON'T
YOU?

THAT
KINDNESS

THAT
INNOCENCE

HIS TOO
PURE AND
HONEST...

I'VE
AGREED TO
FORGIVE IT
BUT...

IF SOMEONE
DOESN'T
WATCH OVER
HIM...

SLIPS RIGHT
THROUGH
THESE
HANDS...

...THAT
IS WHAT
HAPPENS!









NOT BE

THAT I
FEEL -

I AM
HAPPY QUITE
NOW!!

GOOD-

IF ONLY
I HAD
NEVER
LOVED,
EVERYONE
MIGHT HAVE
BEEN
HAPPY...

I...
NO LONGER
NEEDED
ANYTHING...

I...

JUST
WANTED
TO END
IT ALL...

GO...



GEORGES!

TILL ARE...

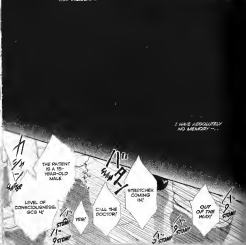
GOO





IT'S ABOUT GEORGE...!

OF THE TWO WHOLE
BOYS FOLLOWING
THAT INCIDENT...



I HAVE ABSOLUTELY
NO MEMORY...

THE PATIENT
IS A 15-
YEAR-OLD
MALE

LEVEL OF
CONSCIOUSNESS:
GCS 14

YES!

CALL THE
DOCTOR!

STRETCHER
COMING IN!

OUT
OF THE
HURT



RAISERS
ALWAYS
GET UP
EARLY

WE
THOUGHT
WE SHOULD
GET AN
EARLY
START...

AND
BECAUSE
OF ALL
THIS
SNOOW



I COULD
ASK YOU
THE SAME
QUESTION

WHA! ARE YOU
DOING
OUT AT
THIS HOUR?
YOU'LL CATCH
COLD!



IS
SOMETHING
WRONG?



ANNEX



TELEPHONE!



GEORGE
IS...

WHAT...?







...YOU WERE
THE ONE
WHO WAS
INJURED...

ONLY
THINK
THEN...



I'M
SORRY -

THAT IT
HAD TO
COME
TO ALL
THIS...

IT'S
ALL
MY -

IT'S
OKAY
NOW...

IT'S
NOT
OKAY

I
HEARD,

YOU
KNOW



H...OW...

THE
HOS-
PITAL...?

YOU WERE
BROUGHT
HERE -

BUT
YOU'VE BEEN
UNCONSCIOUS

YEAH...



LET ME
GET THE
NURSE.

YOU
SLEPT
FOR TWO
WHOLE
DAYS

WAIT...



- THIS IS
JUST LIKE
THAT TIME IN
THE SCHOOL
INFIRMARY...





...IS
ARE...

THE
ONLY TEST
ONE OF
ALL...



I
THOUGHT...

...IT WAS
YOU TO
FOUND



SHE
TRULY
WAS...

HEARINGS...

IT'S
TRUE THAT
GRACE -

WAS
PRECIOUS
TO ME...

LOOKING...

AND
NOT...

BUT...



I CAN'T
KEEP
MYSELF...

THIS
EMOTION
I'M
FEELING
NOW...

FROM
SEEKING
YOU
OUT...

ALWAYS...

...IS
UNDENIABLY
GENUINE...



EVERYONE
ELSE
TOO —

YOU BET
YOU DID!

DID I...

YOUR
MOTHER...

YOU
DID!

WAKE
YOU
WORSE??

HENRI...

MY OLD
MOM...
AND
OTHERS...

MY MOTHER...
SHE'S
HERE...?



EVERYONE
RUSHED
OVER AT
THE NEWS
OF YOUR
COLLAPSE...

WHY...?

THEY WERE
WORRIED
BECAUSE IT'D BEEN
SNOWING...

AND
YOU WERE
OUT IN THE COLD
FOR —

SHE'S
SLEEPING
IN THE
NEXT ROOM









I'VE BEEN
ALLOWED
TO REUNITE
WITH THE
PEOPLE
MOST
PRECIOUS
TO ME...



THE ORTHOPEDIST
SAID THAT YOU
CAN MOVE IT
ONCE THE PAIN
IS GONE.

YOSHIO
IS HERE
IS HE?

DOES YOUR RIGHT ARM
STILL HURT?

NO



TO
EVERYONE
WHO
SEARCHED
FOR ME...

EVERYONE
WHO
WORRIED
ABOUT
ME...

OF
APPOINTEMENTS
TO DO.

I'VE
GOT A
WHOLE
LOT -



BECAUSE
EVEN THOUGH
I WAS SO
SAD AND IN
SO MUCH
PAIN THAT
I'D JUST
WANTED TO
DISAPPEAR...

I'VE GOT
A WHOLE
LOT OF
EXPLAINING
TO DO...

AND SO
MUCH
TO BE
GRATEFUL
FOR...



HERE -

ONCE
AGAIN -





IN TIME, I'M SURE
EVERYONE
WILL JUST
FORGET

IT'S
BECAUSE
SO MANY
THINGS
HAVE
HAPPENED
ALL AT
ONCE

- BUT
YOU
KNOW...

STUFF
LIKE
THAT



SO, IS HE
THERE NOW?



YEAH...
I TOLD HIM
HE DON'T
HAVE TO NOW
TALK MY MOM
IS HERE WITH
ME, BUT

HE'S STAYED
THERE THE
WHOLE TIME
SINCE THEN"

HE WAS
WITH ME
IN THE
HOSPITAL
ROOM A
WHILE AGO.
BUT

OH -
GEE, I
DON'T
KNOW



IF I HADN'T
BEEN THERE,
I'M SURE THINGS
WOULDN'T BEEN
A WHOLE LOT
DIFFERENT -
KNOW WHAT
I MEAN?
OF COURSE.

HEH...

HE'S
ACTUALLY
GOT THE
SENSITIVE
RELATION

AND HE WAS
GENUINELY
DISAPPOINTED
FROM THE
TIME YOU
DISAPPEARED.
ALL THE WAY
UP TO WHEN
YOU FINALLY
Woke UP IN
THE HOSPITAL.

YOU KNOW
HE HAD TO
TWIST THE
PRINCIPAL'S
ARM TO GET
PERMISSION TO
STAY THERE



ABOUT THE
PARTY INCIDENT...
AND YOUR
DISAPPEARANCE
AFTERWARD

SINCE MOST
OF OUR CLASS
WAS THERE...

THERE'S
THIS
RUMOR
GOING
AROUND...

HUM...?

NO -

IT'S
JUST



AND WHAT
WITH YOU BEING
IN HOSPITAL
AND NOT SHOWING
UP FOR SCHOOL.
THEY'RE SAYING
IT MUST BE A
MAJOR INJURY.



HE WAS
SAVING
WHAT IF HE
CAN NO
LONGER
PLAY?"

ABOUT
THAT -

IT SO, I'M
GLAD UP
INFO A
MAJOR DEAL
OVER
HERE...

THE MUSIC
WAS ON
IN A TINY.



THEY'RE
SAYING HE
MIGHT BE
INVOLVED...

ROBERT'S
WENT OUT
THIS MORNING
TIME, TOO.

ALSO...

OH -
AND I
HEARD ABOUT
YOUR
MUSIC
CHOICE
CHANGING,
TOO

THERE
WAS THAT
ANNOYING
INCIDENT AT
THE MUSIC
FESTIVAL

SPENDING...







IT ALR -

NO STRENGTH..

















DID YOU...
BY ANY CHANCE,
HAPPEN TO
BE AT THE
HOSPITAL?



I'VE HEARD
THE GENERAL
SITUATION.
ARE YOU ALL
RIGHT NOW?



ONE...



NO,
I WAS
NOT.



DID I
HAPPEN TO
INTRUDE
INTO YOUR
DREAM?

THEN I
GUESS...
IT
WAS A
DREAM.



I HEARD
ROBERT'S
VOICE

BUT...

FROM
FAR AWAY.

THEN...



FATHER...

LOUIS?

YES



YOU'VE
BEEN
THROUGH
A LOT



I SEE

IT'S JUST
A SMALL
CHURCH
IN THE
COUNTRY,
BUT...

NOW THAT I'VE
RETURNED TO
WORK, I CAME
TO INFORM THE
PRINCIPAL.



I'M QUITE THE PROBLEM CHILD MYSELF...

...YOU SEE



DEAREST



JUST SAYING SUCH RIDICULOUS THINGS!

I'M FINE NOW

YES, WORRY

YOU WEREN'T IN THE INFIRMARY, SO I WAS WORRIED! DO YOU FEEL BETTER?



PRETTY

WE WERE THE ONES WHO WERE THERE - NOT YOU, BIG PRETTY!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

YOU SHOULD KNOW!



AND PURE IT IS...

THE PERSON

NO MATTER WHO...

INNOCENT...

HOW...



...I THINK THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH

OR WAIT, SUPPOSE TO TRUST

AND...



OH?



THE TALKING



THIS IS CHEATING, ISN'T IT?

IS THAT ONE OF HIS

YOU ARE ONE OF HIS

IT'S ENOUGH...



ON...

I SEE...

MY INJURY...

WAS NOT HIS FAULT



IT'S TRUE...

THAT TIME...

HE WAS CONCERNED FOR ME BECAUSE I WAS FEELING S.L.

HE'S THE ONE WHO TRIGGERED EVERYTHING



DURING THE MUSIC FESTIVAL

AND EVEN NOW...

HE WAS JUST CONCERNED FOR ME BECAUSE I'VE BEEN SO EMOTIONAL...

IF THAT WASN'T TRUE, I WOULDN'T BE HANDING OUT WITH HIM - WOULD I?

BUT...



...WHAT?



GEORGES



WE JUST WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH

AND WHETHER...

YOU REALLY CAN'T PLAY THE PIANO ANYMORE

ABOUT WHETHER SOMETHING WAS REALLY INVOLVED OR NOT.



DON'T YOU
KNOW IT'S
UNNECESSARY?

YOU THINK
THAT AGAIN?
AM HAPPY?

DON'T YOU
KNOW THAT
NO MATTER
WHAT, I
WOULD STILL
LOVE...

GEOR-

YOU
DUMMY!

YOU KNOW IT
WASN'T YOUR
FAULT, SO
SPEAK UP FOR
YOURSELF!

THIS IS WHY
EVERYONE
ALWAYS GETS
THE WRONG
IDEA ABOUT
YOU!

HESSID

STAY AWAY
FROM YOUR
WIFE?

WHAT'S THAT
ALL ABOUT?
IS THAT
SUPPOSED TO
BE FOR
MY SANE?

IT'S NOT
FAIR!

YOU'RE
ALWAYS
DOING
THIS TO
YOURSELF!

WHAT?

MY

WEDDING?

YOUR
WIFE...

DECEASE...









IT WAS...
A LONG
TIME AGO,
BUT...

I THINK
GRACE...

"YES
GARY!"

"I'M
NEVER
GONNA
FORGET
YOU..."

...WAS
HAPPY



"ROBERT'S
HERE!
YOU'RE
HERE!"

"YOU TWO
JUST
HURRY!
BUT YOU'RE
ALWAYS
GETTING
INTO A
FOUNTAIN!"

"YOU
BOTH ARE
REALLY A
HANDFUL,
BUT..."

"I FEEL
JOY WHEN
I'M WITH
YOU TWO!"



"I LOVE ALL
THE PEOPLE
AROUND
ME!"

"YOU'RE
ONE OF
THEM!"

"I'D BE
ABLE TO
FEEL THIS
WAY..."

"IT HURT
BECAUSE
I'M
HAPPY..."



I KNEW
IT WAS
YOU...



"YOU CAME
TO THE
HOSPITAL,
DIDN'T
YOU?"

"...
YOU
KNOW
NOW!"

YEAH

I SEE

THANK
YOU



LINKED
THROUGH
GRACE...

YOU
SEEM LIKE
SOMEONE...

YOU AND
ROBERT.



WHY...



... YOU
SHOULD
TELL HIM
PERSONALLY

HEY...
WHAT YOU
TOLD ME
LAST
NOW...

I WONDER
WHY IT IS
THAT YOU
CAN SMILE
NOW...



SAND
THEY CAN
SURE
HIT...

NO MORE,
DON'T BLAME
YOURSELF...



I FELT LIKE
I WAS ONLY
RATIONALIZING
TO MYSELF...

I WAS
SCARED
TO ADMIT
IT

STILL...

... CAN
BECOME
LIKE YOU
SOMEONE...



IF ONLY
I COULD
BLAME
SOMEONE...

GETTING
YOU MIXED
UP IN
EVERYTHING

IT WAS
UNFAIR
OF ME
WHEN
IT?

I THOUGHT
I MIGHT
FEEL
BETTER...

IF I COULD
PUT IT ALL
ON SOMEONE
ELSE...







OH MAN...



YOU HOLD A GUILD? DON'T YOU?

WE WENT BACK TO APOLOGIZE AFTERWARDS... DIDN'T WE?

BOTH OF YOU RUNNING AWAY LIKE THAT - THAT WASN'T FAIR!



I'M PERSISTENT, DON'T YOU KNOW?



HE MAY NOT LOOK IT, BUT HE'S GOT A PRETTY STRONG PUNCH, YOU KNOW?

OUCH...

WHY'S YOUR MOUTH ALL GUT UP?



WE RAN WITHOUT THINKING, BUT...

GO...



...YOU JUST GONNA LEAVE HIM?



...

THERE ARE...

SO AS MY
THINGS I
WANT TO
TALK TO
YOU
ABOUT...

BUT I DON'T
KNOW
WHERE TO
START...

THE FACT
THAT I
WAS
KIND OF
YOUR
FRIEND...

AND
THAT I
ALWAYS
THOUGHT
YOU
LOVED...

THERE ARE
SOME THINGS
I MUST
ASK
YOUR
FORGIVENESS
FOR...

BUT
NONE
OF ALL...

GRACE CORAIL

GRACE CORAIL

HELLO...

IT'S AS IF
YOU'RE IN
ARGENTINA...







SO...
WHEN WILL
YOU BE
LEAVING?

WE'LL GO
ON LIVING.

FACING
FORWARD

DEBATING
ABOUT
MARCH

I SEE

SO BEFORE
THAT, WE'VE
GOT A FIRM
MOSE
GROVER TO
VISIT.

MY
FATHER'S --

MARIA'S --

I THOUGHT
FROM ALAN --
HOW SHE
PASSED AWAY
WHEN YOU
WERE STILL
YOUNG

AND...
YOUR
MOTHER'S

NEITHER
ARE WE

INNOCENT
CHILDREN

YEAH...

OUR
FIRM --

OUR
WELFARE --

OUR
ANXIETY --

OUR
GRIEVANCE --

BLINDING
THEM ALL --

NOT
STILL --

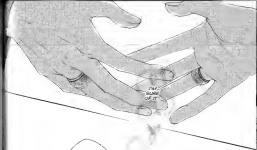








La Esperança



THINK I'LL
SEE YOU

Fine



BECAUSE THIS IS THE ONLY WAY! JUST A FEW MINUTES. I'M SURE MANY OF YOU HAVE ALREADY REALIZED, BUT THE DREAMING ON THE FRONT COVER, WHERE THE SKETCH ARE MEANT TO REPRESENT A "BEHIND-THE-SCENES" TYPE SITUATION, NOT ONLY TRUE, BUT IT'S MEANT TO REFLECT A KIND OF "DRAMATIC REENACTMENT" BY THE ACTUAL "ARTIST" SCORPION. AND THESE ILLUSTRATIONS ON THE AFTERWORD PAGE ARE MEANT AS "BEHIND-SCENES"—IMAGINE THEM BEING SHOWN DURING PULLING CREDITS, THE SKETCH HAS FINISHED, BUT I'M SURE THE STORY OF GARDENS, FORTRESS, AND ALL THE OTHER PEOPLE AROUND THEM WILL CONTINUE ON GARDENS HAS LEFT THE MOST. BUT I IMAGINE IT'LL BE COMING BACK IN 3-4 MONTHS WHEN SUMMER VACATION BEGINS AGAIN. (COURTESY PEOPLE WILL UNCONSCIOUSLY DEEP IN HIM FREQUENTLY, ON WEEDS AND SUCH.) DURING THIS LONG STORY, THERE WON'T A FEW SIDE-STORIES THAT DO NOT MIX IT WITH THE MAIN STORY IN SOMEHOW, SOMEWHERE, THESE STORIES SHOULD APPEAR TO ME UP. I HOPE YOU'LL TAKE A LOOK. ☆ ☆ ☆

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL WHO ALWAYS SEND ME LETTERS. I THINK I'M MANAGING TO SEND OUT RESPONSES, BUT THERE ARE STILL SOME OF YOU WHO ARE FORGETTING TO INCLUDE YOUR NAMES AND ADDRESSES, SO PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THEY ARE NECESSARY BEFORE YOU SEND YOUR LETTERS OUT. AND NOW, THIS AFTERWORD IS BECOMING TO A CLOSE. I AM TRULY GRATEFUL THAT I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO COME THIS FAR, THANKS TO THE SUPPORT OF SO MANY PEOPLE TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED ME IN SECRET, THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE SPEAKING RIGHT NOW, EVERYBODY WHO ARE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE MAKING OF THIS BOOK—TO ENJOY AND INVITE ONE OF YOU, I GIVE MY HEARTFELT THANKS, THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH IT WAS A TUGH JOURNEY, BUT A HAPPY ONE! ♡

WELL, THEN, MAY WE MEET AGAIN SOMEWHERE!

Chiyoko Nagase

THE END, AND AS THE LAST JOURNEY CHERRY BLOSSOMS ARE FALLING.



PROMENADE

WELL, THIS IS CHERRY BLOSSOM AND THIS IS THE PROMENADE VOLUME. I JUST AS I REMEMBERED YOU LAST TIME, THIS IS THE CONCLUDING VOLUME. SOMETHING I MANAGE TO WEAR THANKS UP, BUT TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, THE REALITY HAIN'T SET IN FOR ME. THIS SITUATION HAS GONE ON FOR SEVEN YEARS, AND YES, ONLY A YEAR HAS GONE BY IN THE ACTUAL STORY, BUT A LONG YEAR. I BUT I HAD INTERVIEW FROM THE STREET TO TAKE THE STORY THROUGH ALL FOUR SEASONS, AND TO THAT END, I HAVE ACHIEVED MY GOAL. I'M SO GLAD. I WILL BE VERY HAPPY IF YOU ENJOY THE FINAL CHAPTER, CONCLUDING SEVEN YEARS' WORTH OF LABOR, (ALTHOUGH THE CONTENT IS PRETTY HEAVY.) FOR THOSE OF YOU ENJOYING THE AFTERWORD FIRST, REMEMBER OF THE STORIES WHICH WILL FOLLOW.

THE CHAPTER IS IN ROMAN, VOL. 1, FINAL CHAPTER.

→ THIS IS THE "ROMAN" AND CONTAINS FROM THE PREVIOUS VOLUME THE SHOWALL. IS CONTINUOUS, WHILE DREAMING THE FIRST PART OF THE CHAPTER, I BEGAN TO FEEL, "NO IT'S BEING LONGER." AND I SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED STOPPING MY PEN, BUT STEADILY, THAN THAT WAS MY GOAL TO "ENDING A SIMPLE BACK TO GARDENS' PLACE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE," WHICH ALLOWED ME TO SUCCESSFULLY BEING THROUGH IN THE CONCLUSION, WITH ALL THE "SECRET" SCENES (AND HIGH NUMBER, OF PAGES, TO BOOT) AND ON TOP OF THAT, ALL THE NIGHTTIME "SCENES," THIS LAST LEG OF THE JOURNEY WAS, RATHER, STEADILY, "I'M SURE, I'M SURE, I'M SURE, THE LAST 14-PAGE CHAPTER, IN THE "JOURNEY, HIGH" THREE, ENDS!" WELL, SINCE THERE IS A BLANK PAGE BETWEEN THE GRAVE-WRITING SCENE (CURRENT) AND THE STATION SCENE (IMAGINE) IN THE FINAL CHAPTER, PLEASE USE YOUR IMAGINATION FREELY AS TO HOW THAT

HAPPENED... I TRULY HOPE IT A BIT IN THE MID-MANUS, BUT THE BEST IS UP TO YOU. ☆ ☆ ☆



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THE BLANK PERIOD IN FEBRUARY

